

# HOUSE BILL 812

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By: **Delegates Beitzel, Bohanan, Boteler, Conway, DeBoy, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Glass, Hogan, Impallaria, James, K. Kelly, Krebs, McDermott, Myers, Parrott, Serafini, Smigiel, Stocksdale, Weir, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2013

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hunting – Certificate of Competency and Safety – Veterans and Active Duty**  
3 **Military**

4 FOR the purpose of exempting veterans and persons serving on active duty in the  
5 armed forces of the United States from any practical or field components of the  
6 course of instruction in competency and safety in the handling of firearms;  
7 requiring the Department of Natural Resources to issue a Certificate of  
8 Competency and Safety to a veteran or person serving on active duty in the  
9 armed forces of the United States on written examination only; and generally  
10 relating to the successful completion of the requirements for hunting licenses for  
11 veterans and active duty military.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article – Natural Resources  
14 Section 10–301.1(a)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
18 Article – Natural Resources  
19 Section 10–301.1(b)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2012 Replacement Volume)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
23 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – Natural Resources**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 10-301.1.

2 (a) (1) (i) On or after July 1, 1977 a person under 18 years of age may  
3 not procure a hunting license or hunt in the State, unless the person has first been  
4 issued a certificate of competency in firearms and hunter safety.

5 (ii) On or after July 1, 1977 a person, regardless of age, may not  
6 procure a hunting license without producing a certificate of competency or a hunting  
7 license issued prior to July 1, 1977 or making out an affidavit that the person had such  
8 a license.

9 (2) This section does not apply to nonresidents of Maryland who  
10 purchase a hunting license in the State to hunt wild waterfowl. However, this does  
11 apply to nonresidents of Maryland who purchase hunting licenses in the State to hunt  
12 other wildlife.

13 (b) (1) The Department shall prescribe a course of instruction in  
14 conservation and in competency and safety in the handling of firearms.

15 (2) The Department shall designate those persons or agencies  
16 authorized to give the course of instruction, and this designation shall be valid until  
17 revoked by the Department. Those designated persons shall submit to the Department  
18 validated listings naming all persons who have successfully completed the course of  
19 instruction.

20 (3) The Department shall issue a certificate of competency and safety  
21 to each person who successfully completes the course of instruction, and the certificate  
22 shall be valid until revoked by the Department.

23 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL EXEMPT VETERANS, AS DEFINED IN**  
24 **§ 9-901 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, AND PERSONS SERVING ON**  
25 **ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES FROM ANY**  
26 **PRACTICAL OR FIELD COMPONENTS OF THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN**  
27 **COMPETENCY AND SAFETY IN THE HANDLING OF FIREARMS. THE DEPARTMENT**  
28 **SHALL ISSUE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCY AND SAFETY TO A VETERAN OR**  
29 **PERSON SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED**  
30 **STATES ON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION ONLY.**

31 **[(4)] (5)** The Department may not issue a certificate of competency  
32 and safety to an individual under the age of 18 unless the individual has completed  
33 satisfactorily the course of instruction, or produces a certificate of competency or a  
34 hunting license issued prior to July 1, 1978 or makes out an affidavit that the  
35 individual had such a license.

36 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
37 October 1, 2013.